

Fact Sheet

How to Collect a Stool Sample

Date: April 2023

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. The plastic biohazard bag provided contains a bottle and a requisition form which is located in a separate pouch at the front of the bag. Remove the bottle and the requisition form. Sometimes two bottles may be included depending on the situation.
3. On the requisition form clearly print the following information for the person for whom the sample is being collected, if not already pre-labelled:
 - Health Card Number
 - First and last name
 - Date of birth
 - Sample collection date
 - Onset date (when the person started to feel sick)

Please note if this information is not included in full as required or clear the sample will not be processed by the laboratory.

4. The following information must be completed on each bottle for the person for whom the sample is being collected, if not already pre-labelled. The same information must be completed on each bottle, if there are more than one bottle.
 - First and last name
 - Date of birth
 - Sample collection date
 - The outbreak number as provided by Toronto Public Health (if applicable)

Please note if this information is not included in full as required or clear on the bottle(s), the sample will not be processed by the laboratory.

5. To collect the sample you can:
 - Loosely cover the toilet seat with plastic wrap OR
 - Make a medium to large container out of foil OR
 - Use a collection pan or disposable plastic container.
6. Using the scoop attached to the lid of the bottles, add stool (feces) up to the line indicated on the side of the bottle. Replace and tighten the cap. Make sure the cap of the bottle is put on well. Do not over-tighten.
7. Place the bottle(s) into the plastic biohazard bag and put the requisition form to the pouch located at the front of the plastic biohazard bag (do not put the requisition form inside the bag with the specimen bottle(s)). Seal the portion of the plastic bag that contains the specimen bottle(s).
8. Wash your hands with soap and water.
9. Refrigerate specimen(s) immediately. Do not freeze specimens.
10. Contact Toronto Public Health as soon as possible to arrange pick-up of the samples.